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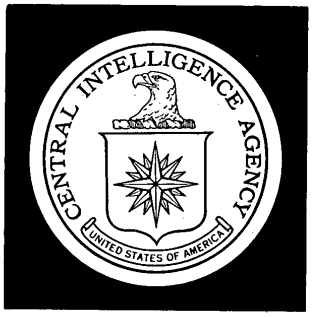

The President's Daily Brief

27 February 1971

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Top Secret

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 February 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Evidence is mounting that Hanoi will attempt to inflict a major setback on the South Vietnamese Army in Laos, even if the cost proves high. *(Page 1)*

Enemy ground activity has slackened off in northern Laos but evidence continues to suggest that pressure will soon be renewed against Long Tieng. *(Page 2)*

Pakistani military officers appear to be increasingly restless as the attempt continues to establish a civilian government. *(Page 3)*

In Colombia, a national state of siege has been declared following violence yesterday in Cali. *(Page 4)*

Libya's demands on the oil companies amount to three times the increase obtained by the Persian Gulf countries. *(Page 4)*

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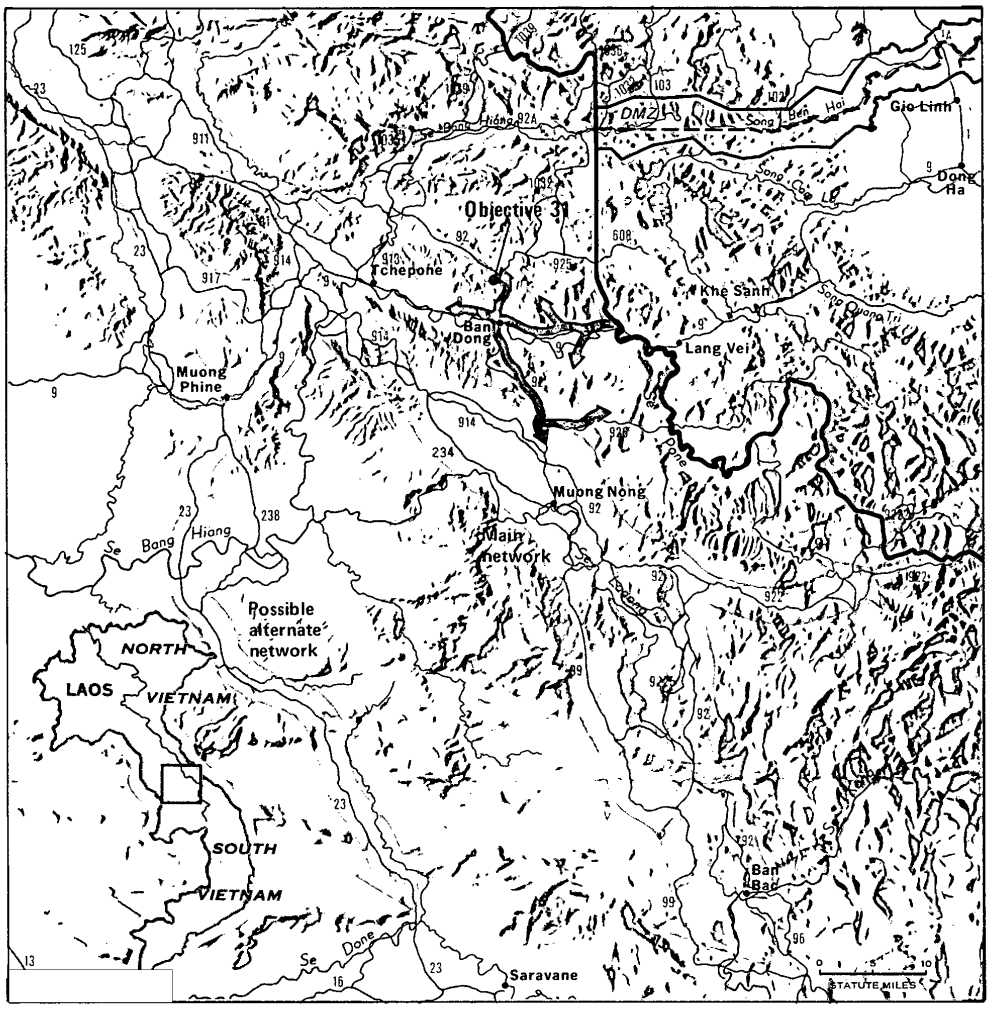
Operation LAM SON 719 Situation Map

General location of ARVN forces



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VIETNAM-LAOS

Evidence is mounting that Hanoi will attempt to inflict a major setback on the South Vietnamese Army in Laos, even if the cost proves high. The North Vietnamese have moved substantial forces into the area, and they seem to have shelved the cautious style of fighting that has been their hallmark for most of the past two years. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

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LAOS

Enemy moves and supply preparations in north Laos continue to suggest pressure will soon be renewed against Long Tieng. For the moment, however, Communist ground activity has slackened off.

[redacted] *several Communist units west of the Plaine des Jarres are suffering from heavy casualties and shortages of supplies and ammunition. Units of the North Vietnamese 316th Division that launched the major rocket and mortar attack on Long Tieng on 14 February apparently are being withdrawn from the area.* [redacted]

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PAKISTAN

There is a growing conviction among military officers that the attempt to establish a civilian government is a mistake, [redacted] These officers believe that President Yahya was "taken in" by East Pakistani leader Mujibur Rahman's professed moderation before last December's elections, and that it would have been better to have imposed stricter martial law last year. They are now concerned over East Pakistani demands for provincial autonomy, and over land reform and nationalization programs advocated by West Pakistani civilian leaders.

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A measure of restlessness among military officers was to be expected. Although some of them appeared more relaxed after the constituent assembly elections went off smoothly in December, they have been edgy from the outset about Yahya's attempts to establish civilian government. [redacted]

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NOTES

Colombia: President Pastrana has declared a state of siege following violence yesterday in Cali, a southern provincial capital. A total of 15 were killed and 47 injured in the incidents which climaxed three weeks of student demonstrations. Further disturbances are likely as the government grapples with numerous problems stemming in part from increasing inflation and a high rate of unemployment. The student agitation has coincided with widespread occupation of private land by campesinos, a national teachers' strike, and plans for a general work stoppage on 8 March.

Libya: The government's demands on the oil companies--including an increase of $1.20 per barrel in the posted price of crude oil--would double Libya's current revenue. This is three times the increase recently obtained by the Persian Gulf countries. Libya also is seeking the deposit in Libyan banks of 25 cents on every barrel of oil produced to be used for "general investments," as well as a speedup of income tax and royalty payments. Despite indications that certain of the demands are negotiable the package is so extreme that the oil companies may well be unable to work out a compromise within the two-week deadline.

Southern Yemen - Saudi Arabia: [redacted] 50X1

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(continued)

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Italy: The smallest member of Prime Minister Colombo's four-party coalition, the Italian Republican Party, has decided to withdraw formally from the cabinet. Republican leader LaMalfa claims that the government is overextending its financial capabilities in recent agreements to meet certain worker demands for social reforms. The three remaining parties would still have a solid majority in parliament, and key leaders of the major parties apparently believe that Republican withdrawal will not provoke the government's resignation. 50X1

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